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(54) Title: HB-954 AS A TARGET FOR MODULATING ANGIOGENESIS

(57) Abstract: The invention describes assays for the identification of compounds useful for the modulation of angiogenesis. The methods of the invention involve cell-free and cell-based assays that identify compounds which bind to and/or activate or inhibit the activity of HB-954, a G protein- coupled receptor, optionally followed by an in vivo assay of the effect of the compound on angiogenesis. The invention also describes compounds which bind to and/or activate or inhibit the activity of HB-954 as well as pharmaceutical compositions comprising such compounds. In addition, the invention includes nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding all or a portion of HB-954, gene therapy vectors comprising such sequences, polypeptides comprising all or a portion of HB-954 and antibodies directed against HB-954.